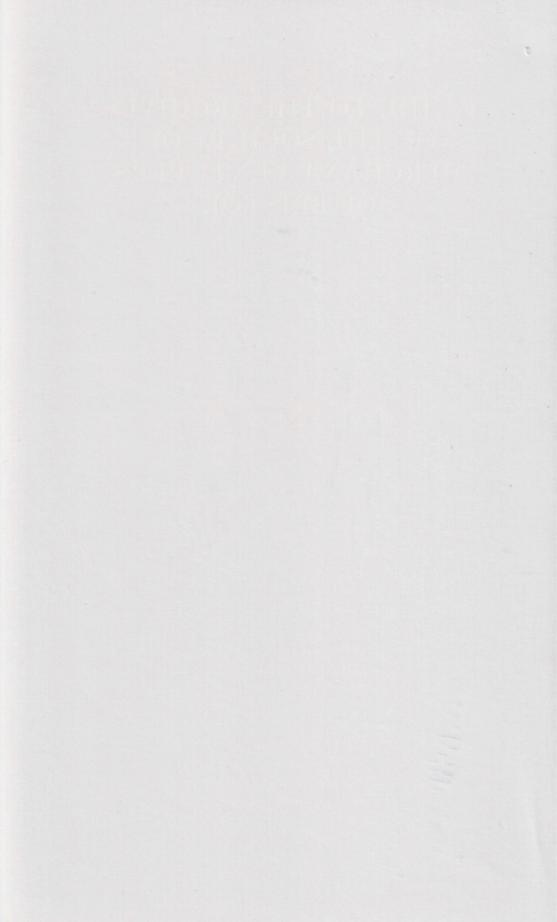
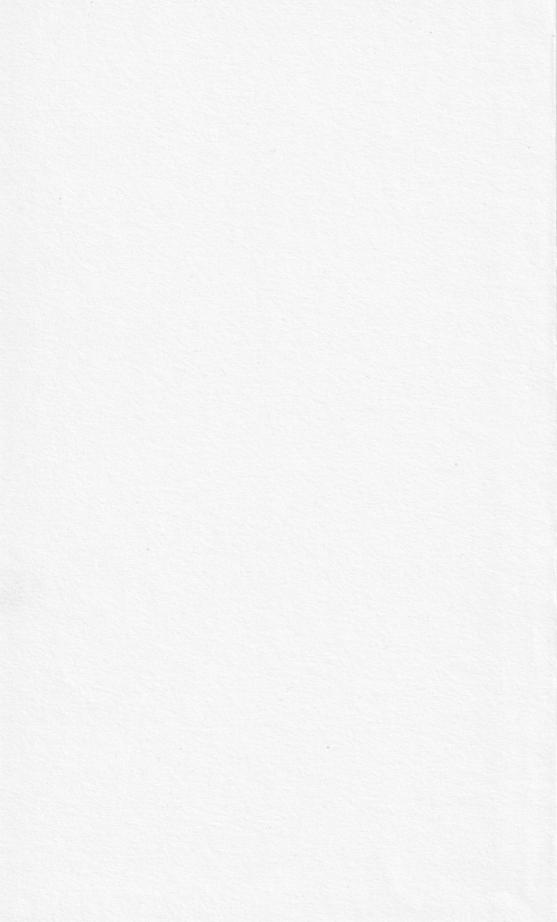
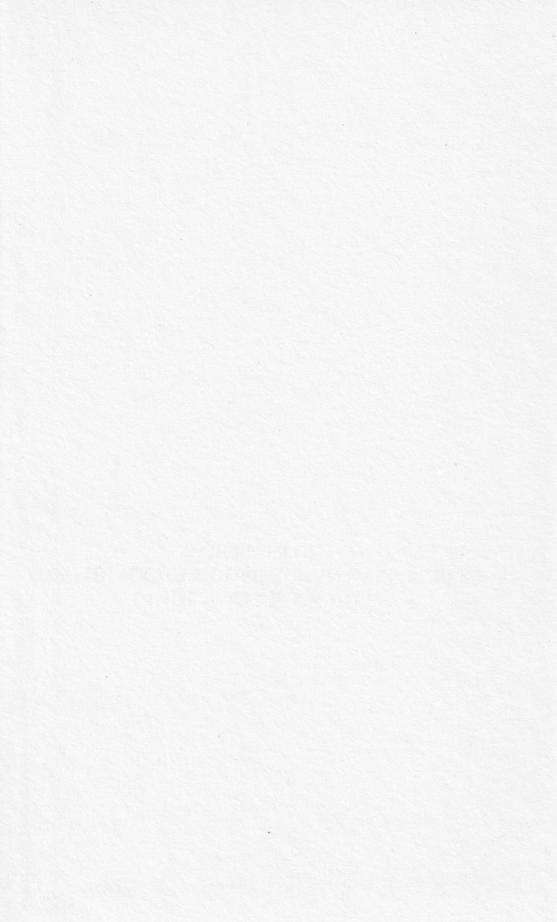
GUIDE TO THE ARCHIVES OF THE SOCIETY OF MERCHANT VENTURERS OF BRISTOL

by
ELIZABETH RALPH
Honorary Archivist to the Society

With a Foreword by J. E. D. WILCOX Master of the Society







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by ELIZABETH RALPH Honorary Archivist to the Society

> With a Foreword by J. E. D. WILCOX Master of the Society

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FOREWORD

The Society of Merchant Venturers has a long and distinguished history and we are privileged to have had our archives assembled and catalogued after many years of intense work by Miss Elizabeth Ralph. She is a celebrated archivist who has already to her credit a most interesting catalogue of the archives in the Bristol Record Office which was published in 1971. The history of the Society of Merchant Venturers links at many stages with the history of Bristol and it is entirely appropriate that the archives of both should have been dealt with by the same talented archivist.

We are extremely grateful to her for the loving care and attention to detail which she has given to our records and are sure that this catalogue will be of great value to all interested in the Society of Merchant Venturers and the part it has played in the life of Bristol.

J. E. D. WILCOX Master of the Society

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INTRODUCTION

In 1896 Francis F. Fox suggested to the Society that John Latimer should be asked to catalogue the archives of the Society. It was agreed that Latimer be given access to all books, charters, deeds and other documents but not allowed to remove them from the Hall. He was to have permission to catalogue, copy or make extracts, on condition 'that he shall not publish, nor mention to anyone not a member, any facts of which he should thus acquire knowledge.' What in fact Latimer did, between the years 1897 and 1901, was to calendar the entries in various important records, such as the Hall Books, the books of charters and ordinances, and a volume labelled *Book of Trade*, comprising three volumes of extracts covering the period 1467–1900.

In his report to the Society, he says 'It is with equal surprise and regret that my search for ancient documents in the muniment rooms of the Merchants' Hall has been almost abortive.' What Latimer meant, was that with the exception of the royal charters, Grant of Arms and municipal ordinances of 1500, no records of the Society have survived before the seventeenth century.

Latimer, who had had access to the records of Bristol Corporation. remarked that even the craft guilds of Bristol had kept a record of their proceedings and several of their minute books had survived. He suggested that a possible explanation of the absence of early records of the Society was to be found in the Proceedings of the Hall, 15th January 1641, when it was ordered that a letter be sent to the Members of Parliament for Bristol '... to seek information and redresse against such persons as by injust informacions to his Majesty, or by their illegall and vnwarrantable proceedings have injuered and abused the merchantes of this Citty by entring into the merchantes hall taking away their books of accomptes and other writinges. . .' To what extent this statement accounts for the disappearance of the early records it is impossible to say. Professor Patrick McGrath acknowledges that Latimer's suggestion may account for the absence of some of the records, but that it is not the complete explanation. He points out that an inventory of the Society's properties and records made in 16311 does not suggest that there then existed a large number of early records which have since disappeared.

In 1639, the Society passed an ordinance stating 'that the Clerke of this Societie shall forwith bring into the Hall, and deliver to the Wardeins, All bookes, Copies of writing, Coppies of letters, and all other papers whatsoever that may in any way concerne This Company, That the same may bee laide upp amongest theire other Writinges, And from hencefourth Theire said Clarke shall not make any writings, or enter any Actes

¹ For further information see Bristol Record Society, vol xvii, 68-70.

or Orders that concernes this Company in other place then in the Common Hawle, called the Marchantes Hawle, vnlesse hee shall have leave from the Maister and Wardeins . . .'² The records were kept in its Hall in King Street until the eighteenth century when a new hall was erected with strongroom accommodation. Here, the records were kept until the Hall was destroyed by enemy action in World War II. As there was no fire, it was possible to rescue all the records which were deposited with the Corporation of Bristol, until such time as new accommodation could be found. The records are now housed in the Merchants' Hall, The Promenade, Clifton.

This Catalogue of the records relating to the Society of Merchant Venturers will, it is hoped, be a significant supplement to the *Guide to the records in the Bristol Record Office*. Throughout its history, the Society has had a close relationship with the Corporation of Bristol.

It should be emphasised that this is only a guide to sources. In the pages that follow are lists of the main classes of records. More detailed information will be found in card indexes at the Merchants' Hall. It has not been possible to list the many deeds and leases of properties.

The history of the Society has been admirably written in great detail by Professor Patrick McGrath in his impressive volume *The Merchant Venturers of Bristol*, Bristol 1975.

I am glad to acknowledge the help of Miss Nora Hardwick and Miss Mary Morris who kindly typed the manuscript.

ELIZABETH RALPH

² Book of Charters 11 27–28.

THE ARCHIVES OF THE SOCIETY OF MERCHANT VENTURERS OF BRISTOL

THE ARCHANT VENTUREDS OF BRISTOL OF BRISTOL

CHARTERS

The Society of Merchant Venturers of Bristol was incorporated by Letters Patent of Edward VI but the merchant organisation then established by royal authority was not the first organisation of merchants to be established in the city. It was not until 1500 that the Common Council of Bristol established an organisation which resembled the Society of Merchant Venturers.

CHARTERS3

6 Edward VI	18 December 1552	Incorporation of the Society
8 Elizabeth I	8 July 1566	Confirmation of Edward VI
8 Elizabeth I	30 September 1566	Copy of Act of Parliament for confirmation of Letters Patent granted to the Merchant Adventurers of Bristol
14 Charles I	7 January 1639	Inspeximus
19 Charles I	22 December 1643	Certified copy of Letters Patent under the Great Seal, 1669
17 Charles II	23 June 1665	Exemplification of Letters Patent, 1639

GRANT OF CREST AND SUPPORTERS

Grant of Arms

28 August 1659

ORDINANCES

Acts and ordinances made by the Common Council of Bristol concerning a 'Fellowship of Merchants', 1500

Confirmation of the Society's ordinances by the Mayor and Common Council of Bristol, 1612

Acts, ordinances and decrees, 1618

Ordinances, revised, 1639

³ John Latimer, *The History of the Society of Merchant Venturers of Bristol*, Bristol, 1903 contains transcriptions and translations of all the charters and ordinances.

BOOK OF CHARTERS, 1618-1765, 1 vol

(contains enrolment of the officers of the Society, inventory of property, charters and of letters patent and ordinances, register of members, 1618, and names recorded year by year until 1765)

BOOK OF CHARTERS, 1639-1765, 1 vol

(contains a record of benefactors, oaths of officers, ordinances of 1639 and enrolments of charters, letters, etc.)

Enrolment of charters, ordinances, oaths of officers, petitions, benefactions to the Society and copies, 16th century-1850, 2 vols

APPRENTICESHIP

Register of Members' apprentices, 1653–1930, 1 vol (It is not a continuous register. There is only one entry between 1781 and 1850)

Admissions to membership of the S.M.V., 1808–1975 [1963–1969 missing]

BOSE OF CHARTERS, 1618-1765, 1-val

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Regione, of Members, communication 1932, 1932, 1933 (It is onto continuous register. There is only one circuit in a seen 1781 and 1830)

Administration membershop of the S.M. No. 1808-1974. 11952-1996 meaning.

ADMINISTRATIVE RECORDS

Proceedings of the Hall, 1639-4

Indexes to Proceedings of the Hall, 1708-1925 11 vols

Charity Proceedings, 1852-1946 5 vols

Minutes of sub-committees, 1843-1957 7 vols

Finance Committee minutes, 1842-

(after 1968 Finance & Investments, later Finance & Property sub-committee)

Pilotage Committee minutes, 1846-1855 1 vol

Downs Committee minutes, 1861-1879 1 vol

(The Downs Committee is comprised of members of the City Council and the S.M.V. The signed minutes are in the Bristol Record Office)

Finance Committee account books, 1922-1947 2 vols

Masters' Committee minutes, 1853-1876, 1916-1928 4 vols

Masters' Agenda books, 1925-1932, 1941-46, 1956-67 4 vols

Treasurer's Committee books, 1917-1929 3 vols

Treasurer's Agenda books, 1929-1969 13 vols

Record of attendances, 1844-

Reports of sub-committees, 1844-1855 1 vol

Sealing books, 1852-

Letter books, 1747-1845, 1851-1863 13 vols

(The first pages, December 1747–March 1748, are copies of letters received; thereafter, i.e. from November 1753, they are copies of letters sent out. The early ones are in the name of the Society, later from the Clerk, and are concerned with the administration of the estates)

Letter books, 1855-1920 51 vols

(These letter books are a continuation of the main series, as previous entry, but from 1868 contain letters of the Colston charities)

Letter books, 1773-1838 6 vols

(Being copies of letters written by the Treasurer of the Society)

Letter book of William Claxton, Treasurer, 1841-1859 1 vol

Diary of William Claxton, 1841-1873, and a typescript copy

Letters, 1755-1819 44 bundles

(These are letters addressed to the Society, together with draft copies of letters sent out and other enclosures. The letters are arranged chronologically in bundles according to the Master's year, i.e. from November

⁴ The Proceedings of the Hall, more commonly referred to as the Hall Minutes, have been micro-filmed and copies deposited in the Bristol Reference Library and the Bristol University Library.

to October. Some letters are addressed to the Master of the Society and others to Sam Worrall, their lawyer. Index of these letters at Merchants'

Letters addressed to Joseph Hellicar, Treasurer of the Society, 1817–1836 1 file

Letter book of William Claxton re 'Ansties', 1851-1859 1 vol Letter and papers of William Claxton, 1862-1863 20 bundles Letters and papers of William Claxton, 1862-1863 20 bundles (These relate to Claxton's private business)

Loyal Addresses, 1789-1973

Draft of address to George III on his recovery, 14th March 1789

Letter from Thomas Daniel in London that he had called on Marquis of Worcester and Lord Sheffield concerning the presentation of the Address on the termination of differences with the Court of Spain, 14th December 1790

Letter from Marquis of Worcester that Address had been handed Lord Grenville, 15th December 1790

Letter from Marquis of Worcester with reply from Lord Grenville, 18th December 1790

Letter from Marquis of Worcester that he had presented the Address, 20th June 1792

Facsimile of address presented to Edward VII at the opening of the Royal Edward Dock, 1908

Reply by Edward, Prince of Wales, to loyal address, 1921

Reply by George V to loyal address, 1925

Reply by Charles, Prince of Wales, to loyal address, 1973

Merchants' Hall

Alterations to the Hall in Marsh street, 1871 Repairs and improvements, papers, 1929–1939 Marsh Street site, papers re sale, 1952-1969 New Hall, Promenade, Clifton: Fern House, papers, 1945 New Hall, Promenade, Clifton, papers, 1949-1961 Hall furniture and books, papers, 1918-1970 Inventories of contents of Merchants' Hall, 1894, 1903 Inventories of cellar, 1773-1835, 1919-1921, 1945-1966 Functions at the Hall, 1919-Royal Visits, 1930-

Menus, 1929-

Bristol & Clifton Waterworks Company

(In 1841 the Society sought Parliamentary powers to obtain a supply of water for Clifton, but the scheme failed. In 1846 a Bill was promoted for the better supplying of the parishes of Clifton, St. Augustine, St. Michael, St. James and St. Paul. The Society's Bill was rejected in favour of that of the Bristol Water Company)

Papers, petitions, reports and specifications, 1836–1846 Queen Victoria Convalescent Home Minutes of sub-committee to consider celebrations for the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Victoria, 1897

FINANCIAL RECORDS

Treasurer's Account Books, 1583-1719 2 vols

(The first book contains account of the Bristol branch of the Spanish Company 1583, the next entry is the first account of the Society's finances 1617 and continues to 1633. The rest of the volume is blank. The second book, 1646–1719, contains fragmentary accounts 1646–59, and then more complete from 1659; the gaps are partially filled by accounts in the *Book of Trade* 1610–1630.) *see also* Beadle's books

Account books, 1719-1796 5 vols

Cash books, 1773-

Ledgers, 1795-

Journals, 1795-1914 6 vols

Receipt books, 1757-1867 21 vols

Receipts, 1767-1841 1 vol

Bond receipt books, 1783-1838 8 vols

Payments and receipts, 1840-1850 1 vol

Draft cash book, 1922-1926 1 vol

Beadle's book, 1686-1734, 1745-1773 4 vols

Beadle's book of William Haynes, Jnr., 1796-1819, 1797-1836 3 vols

Beadle's receipt book, 1732-1785 3 vols

Mr. Haynes, Snr., accounts, 1762-1789 1 vol

Mr. Haynes, Snr., receipt book, 1762-1783 1 vol

Mr. Haynes, Jnr., receipt book, 1820-1837 1 vol

(The Beadle's duties were defined in Ordinances of 1639. He collected the Society's rents, made payments to almspeople, disbursed money for building and repairs, and looked after the Society's property. In the 18th century the office was combined with that of the Master of Colston's Hospital)

Vouchers, 1710-1916 17 boxes

(The vouchers for the years 1710–1750 are incomplete and are to be found in board boxes. From 1750–1916 the vouchers are in their original tin boxes. For the years 1843–1872, included with the vouchers are letters and vouchers concerning the Seamen's Hospital, almshouses and miscellaneous papers. Vouchers in box 14 are incomplete)

Bearers' bonds, 1787-1792 1 bundle

Cancelled bonds, 1699-1835 2 boxes

Assignment of annuities, 1808, 1811, 1835 3 docs

Draft accounts prepared by William Ady, 1801-1835 1 bundle

Analysis of accounts, 1819-1833, 1845-1875 2 vols

Stock accounts, 1847-1913 4 vols

Balances, 1847-1875 1 vol

Rough cash books, 1836–1840 3 vols Annual financial estimates, 1857–1871 1 vol Audit book, 1832–1837 1 vol Investment ledger, 1955–1960 1 vol Annuities, (N.D.) 1 file Norgh and hooks 1935-1966 A value Ander hook 1832-1837 Link Ander hook 1832-1837 Link Investment ledger, 1935-1960 Link Annution (V.13.) Like

CHARITIES

ALMSHOUSES

Visiting committee minutes, 1918–1961 2 vols Correspondence re applications, 1928–1974 2 files

MERCHANTS' ALMSHOUSE

In the mid-sixteenth century the Society took over the property of the dissolved Guild of Mariners and the responsibility for the almshouse in King Street which became known as the Merchants' Almshouse.

Pay books, 1747-1818 4 vols

Weekly pay books, 1844-1915 3 vols

List of vacancies, 1829–1844 1 vol (see also Colston's Hospital)

Proceedings of Visiting committee, 1841–1874 2 vols

Benefactions, 1851-1925 4 vols

Nomination books, 1862-1961 5 vols

Admissions registers, 1914-

Cash books, 1853-1880, 1899-1936 2 vols

Ledgers, 1899-1925, 1948-1973 2 vols

Correspondence, 1928–1966 (includes Colston's Almshouse)

War damage correspondence, 1941-1959

COLSTON'S ALMSHOUSE

Established by Edward Colston on St. Michael's Hill in 1696, administered by the Society.

Proceedings of Visiting committee, 1851–1874 2 vols (vol. 1 missing)

Journals, 1695-1857 5 vols

Candidates books, 1829-1937 5 vols

Admissions registers, 1922–

List of vacancies, 1829-1844 1 vol

Petitions to enter almshouse, 1927–1937 1 bundle

Weekly payments, 1844-1924 3 vols

General account book, 1858-1875 1 vol

Cash book, 1920-1923 1 vol

Ledgers, 1920-1960 2 vols

Case and opinions re sale of fee farm rents, 1836, 1902

Correspondence, 1809-1844, 1927-1962

Vouchers, 1836-1913 (see also Colston's Charities vouchers in tin boxes)

Miscellaneous papers, 1706-1792

HILL'S ALMSHOUSE

Established by Thomas Hill near Berkeley Place in 1867 for 12 poor seamen's widows, administered by the Society until 1981.

Deed of settlement, 1867

Byelaws, Rules and Regulations, 1867

Visiting committee minutes, 1869–1951 2 vols

Candidates book, 1875–1938 1 vol

Admission register, 1906–1961 1 vol

Nomination books, 1877–1941 2 vols

Petitions, 1927–1957 1 bundle

Correspondence, 1926–1982 1 file

WILLIAM FRIPP AND CHRISTOPHER GEORGE CHARITY, 1839

Benefactions to be made to almsfolk in Colston's and the Merchants' almshouses.

Accounts, 1840-1904 1 vol

CHARITY COMMISSIONERS

Enquiry into Charities administered by the S.M.V., 1824-1825 1 file

DESCRIPTION OF THE PARTY OF THE PARTY.

Interference of the Thomas 1918 area increases there in 1867 tol 12 may active a subsect of subsect of the property of the pro

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EDUCATION⁵

MERCHANTS' HALL MARINE SCHOOL

The Merchant Venturers' Society in 1738, by the aid of donations from Dame Susanna Holworthy and John Price, established a school for the instruction of 20 boys, sons of Bristol seamen or others. The school was carried on in a room in the Merchants' Hall. In 1863 it was transferred to the Trade & Mining School.

Miscellaneous papers, 1835-1869

(Contain copy of constitution and regulations for the conduct and government of the school, reports of committees and applications and testimonials for the mastership of the school)

TRADE & MINING SCHOOL

The Marine School established in Merchants' Hall by the Merchant Venturers' Society in 1738 was transferred in 1863 to the Trade & Mining School. In 1885 the Trade & Mining School was moved to Unity Street and became known as the Merchant Venturers' School and later in 1894 as the Merchant Venturers' Technical College.

Register of Trade School, 1874–1889 1 vol Trade School pay book, 1875–1885 1 vol

Miscellaneous papers, 1854-1885 (see Appendix I)

MERCHANT VENTURERS' SCHOOL AND LATER COLLEGE

In 1885 the Merchant Venturers' School was established in Unity Street and in 1894 became the Merchant Venturers' Technical College. After 1949 the Merchant Venturers' Technical College became the College of Technology, Bristol, but the advanced engineering work was transferred to the Faculty of Engineering in the University of Bristol.

Proceedings, 1885-1948 5 vols

Sub-committee minutes, 1936-1950 1 vol

Specification of works for new buildings in Unity Street and plans by E. C. Robins, 1882 2 vols

Management committee agendas, 1901–1948 2 vols

Special committee reports, 1906-1907 1 vol

Cash books, 1900-1949 9 vols

Ledgers, 1900-1949 7 vols

Wages, 1943-1949 2 vols

⁵ Unpublished thesis by D. J. Eames, "The contribution made by the Society of Merchant Venturers to the development of education in Bristol", 1966.

Registers:

Mining School students, 1886–1888 1 vol Merchant Venturers' School, 1887–1890, 1909–1919 2 vols Senior day classes and art school, 1893–1896 1 vol Navigation department, 1898–1940 1 vol Pupil teachers, 1904–1906 1 vol Merchant Venturers' Technical College, 1909–1920 1 vol Lists of students, 1899–1901, 1905–10, 1914–19 6 vols Record of pupils, 1891–1911 1 vol

Fees:

School and college fee books, 1885–1943 5 vols Commercial department, 1913–1949 1 vol Pharmacy department, 1934–1949 1 vol Engineering department, 1946–1949 1 vol Cash book (boot and shoe), 1919–1920 1 vol Training courses for demobilised men, 1919–1921 1 vol Higher commercial training, 1921–1926 1 vol

Correspondence:

Letter books, 1901–1917 3 vols
Letters in files, 1902–1910 5 box files
Miscellaneous correspondence, 1943–1950
Correspondence between Society and Dr. Wertheimer, 1908–1924

Wertheimer Trust Scholarships: Papers and correspondence, 1941–1970

Reports:

Report, letters, memoranda re the Merchant Venturers' Technical College and the Technical Committee of the Corporation, the School Board and University College, 1881–1901 2 vols

Vouchers:

Vouchers relating to the administration of the College are filed in tin boxes marked with the dates of contents and numbered 1 to 3, 1909–1912

Newspaper cuttings:

Including tickets, programmes, etc., 1875–1890 1 vol Including dinner menus, photographs, etc., 1885–1914 1 vol Newspaper cuttings, 1900–1911 2 vols

Miscellaneous papers:

For details of miscellaneous papers, 1877–1913 (see Appendix II) Estimates, specifications, contracts, for building and equipping the college, etc., 1907–1908

COLSTON'S HOSPITAL

Founded in 1710 by Edward Colston under a Trust and managed by the Society of Merchant Venturers in conjunction with nominees. The school was first in the Great House, St. Augustine's Back, until 1861 when it was moved to Stapleton. The archives which have survived are incomplete.

Merchants' Hall Hospital books, annual audited accounts, 1719–1860 5 vols

Registers of boys bound as apprentices, 1739-1825 2 vols

(contains a few documents of the 18th century relating to the administration of the school, binding of apprentices, receipts and expenditure, also similar papers for the 19th century)

Indentures of apprenticeship, 1809-1839 2 bundles

Indentures of turnover of apprentices, 1789-1812 2 bundles

Reports from the Standing Committee of S.M.V., 1836-1858 1 vol

Day book, 1837-1848 1 vol

Headmasters' log books, 1837-1870, 4 vols

Headmasters' Reports, 1926-

Order book, 1843-1849, 1 vol

Prize giving book, 1844-1869, 1 vol

(The practice of prizegiving was begun in 1844)

Letter books, 1876–1877, 1907–1916, 2 vols

(Copies of letters sent by the Headmaster)

Copies of the Settlements made by Edward Colston for the maintenance of his Almshouse and the Hospital, 1839 3 vols

(One copy marked 'laid on the table at all General Courts')

Minutes of Governing Body, 1841-

Finance committee minutes, 1945-

(From 1967 bound with minutes of Governing Body)

General account books, 1839–1875 2 vols

Chairman's book, 1939-1957 1 vol

Candidates books, 1858-1934 4 vols

Nomination book, 1859-1872 1 vol

Copy memorial of descendants of founder re removal of school to Stapleton, 1858

Proposals laid before the Master of the Rolls in support of an application to move the school, 1858

Report of sub-committee to Standing committee for the removal of the school to Stapleton, 1859

Miscellaneous papers, 1856-1858

Boarding school:

Free scholars, 1875-1918 2 vols

Address book, 1896-1966 1 vol

Paying and free scholars, 1875-1944 1 vol

Paying scholars, 1901–1960 3 vols

Scholars' registers, 1937-1960 2 vols

Competitive examination application registers, 1934–1967 3 vols

(vols 1 and 2 missing)

Special pupils, 1936–1964 1 vol

Contributions to fees, 1936–1962 1 vol

Elections to Colston's School free scholars, 1919–1928 1 vol

Letter books: Colston's charities, 1852–1880, continues as Colston Trust, 1875-1917 22 vols

Miscellaneous correspondence, 1910–1971 4 box files Colston's charities:

Cash books, 1849-1919 10 vols

Ledgers, 1848-1953 5 vols

General account, 1863-1875 1 vol

Rent terrier, 1905-1919 2 vols

Colston's Hospital Trust scheme, 1869

Colston Trust:

Minutes, 1875-1956 3 vols

Cash books, 1875–1980 5 vols

Ledgers, 1890–1963 3 vols

Journal, 1883–1915 1 vol

General account book, 1875-1877 1 vol

Audited accounts, (signed copies), 1931-

Colston's Boys' School:

Cash books, 1931-1969 6 vols

Ledgers, 1921-1953 3 vols

Audited accounts, (signed copies), 1928–1961

Colston's charities vouchers, 1836–1916 10 boxes

(The vouchers are in tin boxes marked with the dates of the contents. The tin box for 1882-1886 is missing. Included in the boxes are the vouchers for Colston's Almshouse, the manor of Monkton, Beere and Locking, together with Abstracts of accounts of the Municipal Charities Trustees)

Philip Jones Gift to Colston Boys' School:

Minutes and accounts, 1818-1929 1 vol

Minutes, 1894–1923 1 vol

Accounts, 1922–1924 1 vol

Accounts, 1821–1824 1 bundle

Vouchers, 1880–1910

Correspondence and accounts, 1920-1969 1 bundle

Miscellaneous papers, 1707-1907 (see Appendix III)

Miscellaneous papers concerning the administration of the School, 1880–1912 (see Appendix V)

Miscellaneous papers re removal of the School to Stapleton, 1807–1907 (see Appendix IV)

The Endowed School Commissioners were set up under the Endowed Schools Act, 1869. The following papers relate to a Scheme for Colston's Hospital, later School.

Act for the better administration of Charitable Trusts, 1853

Act to amend the Charitable Trusts Act, 1855

Act to amend the law concerning the administration of endowed charities, 1860

Draft Scheme for education in Colston's Hospital by Canon Moseley with correspondence, 1869

Letter from Assistant Commissioner of Endowed Schools Commission on the proposed re-organisation of Bristol endowed schools, with special reference to Colston's Hospital, 1870–71

Scheme for the management of Colston's Hospital, copies annotated, 1871

Report to the Governors on the financial position of the Trust, 1877

Correspondence with the Charity Commissioners re the appointment of the Governors, 1881–1884

Copy of Scheme for management of Colston's Hospital made by the Board of Education altering a Scheme made in 1875, 1902

Letters and circulars from the Board of Education, 1904–1910

Report of second inspection of Colston's Boarding School, 1909

Letter from the Governors to the Board of Education re extension of premises, 1909

Scheme by the Board of Education, 1910

Signed Order by Minister of Education for the redemption of nine fee farm rents on property belonging to Colston's Hospital, 1959

LEGAL PAPERS

In 1707 Edward Colston purchased the manor of Beere, Somerset, and other estates from Edmund Bowyer for the purpose of endowing a school in Bristol for the maintenance of 100 boys. Mr. Edwards, his attorney and agent, agreed to purchase the estate for £9,160. Before Colston's death it was discovered that Bowyer had fraudulently concealed heavy legal charges on the estate and in 1718 William Griffiths and others brought an action against Edward Colston and the executors were compelled to clear the debt of £1,400.

Case in the Court of Chancery - William Griffiths, Daniel Keefe and others v. Edward Colston, John Henley and others, 1718

Commission issued in a cause William Griffiths and his wife, Daniel Keefe and his wife v. Edward Colston, John Henley and others, heard at the Elephant Coffee House, All Saints parish, Bristol

Depositions of witnesses taken before Henry Fane, Francis Freeman, Thomas Till, 3 bundles

Answers of Thomas Edwards, Joseph Jackson and Thomas Coules and S.M.V. Briefs, 3 bundles

Drafts of amended Bill of Complaint, 1719

The following papers relate to several law suits in which Edmund Bowyer was involved concerning the Dorset estates. These papers were used in evidence in the court proceedings, 1718

Copy of Edmund Bowyer's settlement when Robert Henley purchased from Bowyer the manor of Crawford Magna and Spettisbury, Dorset, 1666

Abstract of mortgage made by Edward Bowyer, junior, to Robert Henley, 1666

Will of Martha Trebarfoot in which she left Edmund Bowyer properties in Corn Street, Cock Lane and Wine Street, Bristol, 1678

Draft assignment – Edmund Bowyer of Spettisbury to George Mullens, Robert Pitt and Ann Blackwell of Bristol of manor in Crawford Magna, 1684

Bill of Complaint: Bowyer v. Hobbs and Strong, 1683

Briefs, depositions and answers, 1684-86

Bill of Complaint: Bowyer v. George Lewin and George Lovell

Briefs, depositions and answers, 1685–89

Accounts of Thomas Lovell on the Dorset estates and receipts, 1675-79

Valuation of Dorset estates, 1686

Bill of Complaint: Bowyer v. Robert Pitt

Depositions taken at the Greyhound, Blandford Forum, 1686

Bill of Complaint: Bowyer v. Horlock Briefs, depositions and answers, 1687–89

Bill of Complaint: Bowyer v. Tuxwell and Bowyer v. Mullens

Briefs, depositions and answers, 1686 Agreements, reports and letters, 1690 Bill of Complaint: Griffiths v. Colston

Depositions of witnesses, 1708 Answers of Edward Colston, 1716 Amended Bill of Complaint, 1716 Counsel's Opinion, 1716

Answers of Edward Colston, 1718

(Deeds of the two properties belonging to Edmund Bowyer which were produced in evidence are now deposited in the Somerset Record Office)

CASE IN CHANCERY – ATTORNEY GENERAL v. SOCIETY OF MERCHANT VENTURERS, 1839

In 1839 the Attorney General filed a suit against the Society with reference to some of the land of the Colston charity including the manor of Monkton in Stogursey, Somerset, which the Society held on a lease from Eton College.

Information filed in the Court of Chancery, 1839

Extracts from accounts re the manors of Beere and Locking, N.D.

Counsel's advice, etc., 1839-42

Extracts from the minute books of the Society made in 1840

Copies of shorthand writer's notes re estates at Stogursey, Beere and Locking

Copy of judgment, 1842

Office copy of decree, 1842

Transcript of Snell's shorthand notes, 1843

Extracts from account books of the Society's transactions with Edmund Bowyer

List of matters requiring explanation, 1854

Briefs and petition, 1857

List of memebers, 1857-58

Schedule of properties to be sold at Locking, N.D.

LEGAL DISPUTE WITH LORD MIDDLETON OVER ARREARS OF TAXES IN WHICH HE PLEADED THAT HE HAD NOT BEEN ASKED

Copy of articles of agreement that, on the marriage of Francis Willoughby, now Lord Middleton, and Mary Edwards, £10,000 should be paid them out of the estate of Edward Colston for the purchase of lands of the yearly value of £450 in Sawnby and, because the Trustees had failed to perform this covenant, the complainants exhibited a Bill in Chancery, 1737

- 1. Valens Comyn of Eversley & Mary his wife, widow of Francis Colston, surviving trustee of will of Edward Colston
- 2. Hugh Watson of Middle Temple & David Thomas of Cursitor Street, Middlesex.
- 3. Lord Middleton & Lady Mary his wife, Alexander Ready of Filkins, Oxford, gent. & Sophia his wife.

Abstract of title of Mrs. Ready's title to the manor of Westerleigh, 1750 Copy deed of Common Recovery re the manor of Clapton, Somerset, the advowson of Clapton church, manor house of Portbury and all other messuages in Clapton and Portbury contained in a deed of settlement on marriage of Thomas Edwards Hayman, 1753

- 1. John Edwards of Highgate & Walter Edwards, sons of Thomas Edwards, late of Bristol & Thomas Edwards
 - 2. Lord Middleton & Mary his wife & Alexander Ready & Sophia his wife.
 - 3. Mathew Sloper of the New Inn, gent
 - 4. Hugh Watson of Middle Temple

Note from Mr. Hardwick of Drapers Hall re preparation of Common Recovery and answer to Hardwick's objections, 1760

Draft petition of Lady Middleton & Alexander Colston & Sophia his wife to Master of the Rolls, 1760

Account of Samuel Worrall of his legal fees in connection with the estates of Edward Colston, 1784–85

Copy case and opinion on Mrs. Colston's will, 1791

Copy will of Mary, Lady Middleton, 1759

COLSTON'S GIRLS' SCHOOL

A scheme of 1873 required the new Colston Trustees among other things to establish a day school for girls. A site was obtained in Cheltenham Road, Bristol, and a contract for a school for 300 girls signed in March 1889. The school opened in January 1891 with a headmistress, a second mistress and three assistants. The school was recognised by the Board of Education in 1902.

Letters to the Charity Commissioners re the foundation of the school, 1877–1891

Papers re pension scheme and erection of the school, 1877-1907

Letter to G. H. Pope from the headmistress, W. W. Jose and W. V. Gough, 1890–1903

Free scholars candidates book, 1891-1898

Correspondence re Grant Aid, 1924-1935

Correspondence re properties, 1922-1985

UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL

Reports, letters and memoranda concerning the relations between the Merchant Venturers' Technical College, the Technical Instruction Committee of the Corporation of Bristol, the University College, Bristol, the Bristol School Board and other Educational bodies, 1891–1901

- Letters and reports re the foundation of the University College, 1901–1908
- Files of letters, draft papers, petitions, copies of charters, Bills of Parliament, etc., relating to the establishment of the University of Bristol, requiring the dissolution of the University College of Bristol, 1908–1909
- Files of letters re the Exchequer grant in which the S.M.V. claims a right to a proportion of the annual grant, 1908–1914

APPENDIX I

TRADE AND MINING SCHOOL

MISCELLANEOUS PAPERS, 1854-1885

Bundle 1 (1-22), 1854-1879

Bristol Mining School, printed pamphlet

Trade school accounts

Distrubution of payments on results

Suggestions as to exhibition at the Trade School

Royal exhibitions gained by Trade School scholars

Letter from T. Coomber to Wm. Proctor Baker re salary

Report on water analysis

Application of G. R. Curthoys as English master at the Trade school

Evening Class accounts

Papers re Fritz Werner, master of the school

Science and Art examination accounts

Annual reports of T. Coomber

Memoranda about the school

Copy agreement, Bristol Charity Trustees with Colston Trust re entrance to the Trade School

Copy return of fees sent to T. Coomber

Letter from T. Coomber to G. H. Pope recommending leaving scholarships

Letter from Science and Art Department of South Kensington to G.H. Pope re syllabus of Bristol Trade School

Report of Science & Art Department of South Kensington on the Trade School exhibitioners for 1878

Specifications and estimates for building two class rooms at the Trade School in Nelson Street

Report on proposed site for new school on St. Michael's Hill

Memorandum concerning the school

Bundle 2 (1-14), 1880-1883

Annual reports of T. Coomber

Letter re letting of cellars under the Trade School

Letter from Royal College of Science Dublin re success of a boy from the Trade School

Letter from Royal School of Mines re successes of boys

Report of inspection by Science and Art Department of South Kensington

Return of income tax on masters' salaries

Letter from T. Coomber to G. H. Pope re academic successes

Statistics sent to Science and Art Department

Report by C. A. Buckmaster on examinations with questions set in 1883

Bundle 3 (1-9), 1883-1885

Memorandum as to the effect of the new Evening Class scholarships and effect on the Trade School

Copy of documents referred to in Memorandum

Copy correspondence with Canon Percival on Bristol Evening Class scholarships

Copy of formal protest to Governors of Colston Schools Trust re the action of Bristol Evening Class Scholarships Association

Programme for Evening classes

Correspondence re Evening classes

Receipts for money paid to Evening class scholars

APPENDIX II

MISCELLANEOUS PAPERS, 1877-1913

Papers re Old Grammar School site including demolition and reports and proposals for new school by Thomas Coomber

Papers re lights in cellars of Messrs. Harvey, Denmark Street

Particulars, plan and contract for purchase of Old Grammar School site in Unity Street and Denmark Street

Reports and general specifications on design for new Trade School

Papers from architect, E. G. Robins of London, including instructions to the architect, plans and specifications

Letters from E. G. Robins

Letters from Thomas Coomber

Letters from S. L. Bacon of London, re installation of hot water heating Contract with Brock and Bruce for building

Papers and copies of letters from Bacon re installation of heating with papers of a High Court Appeal

Papers re heating and ventilation

Draft minutes and memoranda of the Building sub-committee

Information from Merchant Taylors School, London, re provision of dinners

Papers re fittings for the school

Prospectus of Robert Renton Gibbs, of St. James, re heating and ventilation work

Account of E. G. Robins

Letter and catalogues from George Spencer, of London, re gymnastic equipment

Draft conveyance by S.M.V. of land and buildings in Denmark Street for purpose of Merchant Venturers' School submitted for Counsel's opinion

Merchant Venturers' Technical College extension, papers and letters with Corporation for sale of Nos. 25–29 Orchard Street and warehouse in Denmark Street

Papers and letters re sale of Orchard Street and Denmark Street properties Reports on extension

Papers re heating with reports by Coomber and Robins

Particulars as to the new school and duties of Headmaster

Map of Bristol showing the residences of day scholars at Merchant Venturers' Trade School

Map of Bristol showing the residences of students at Evening classes

Report of Council of University College, Bristol

Syllabus of Government School of Science and Art, Queens Road, Bristol, with information re evening classes of the M.V.T.C.

Proposals and letters from various firms who were asked for exhibits for a Technical Museum scheme

Papers re the co-ordination of Evening classes in Bristol

Memorandum on a scheme for aid to establish a Technical Institute for Bristol

Application from the S.M.V. to Technical Instruction committee for aid in establishing a Technical Institute for Bristol

Report of inspection by Board of Education of the boys' school of Merchant Venturers' Technical College

Letter re College Green site

Papers from the Board of Education

Letters from Under Secretary of State re diploma in mining engineering Copies of charters of Incorporation of Imperial College of Science and Technology, Dublin, Belfast, etc.

APPENDIX III

MISCELLANEOUS PAPERS, 1707–1907

Miscellaneous papers re administration, 1707-1709 (2 docs.)

Ditto, 1717-1749 (4 docs.)

Ditto, 1782-1791 (12 docs.)

Ditto, 1832-1834 (5 docs.)

Annual accounts of payments and receipts by William Haynes labelled 'Accounts of the Receiver General' 1780–1781

Papers of William Haynes, headmaster, 1786-1790 (8 docs.)

Orders for binding apprentices, 1747–1748 (17 docs.)

Indentures for turning over apprentices, 1789–1834 (2 bundles)

Letters re administration, 1796-1819 (1 bundle)

Indentures of apprenticeship, 1809–1839 (2 bundles)

Applications for administration, 1837–1842 (1 bundle)

Admission orders and baptismal certificates, 1842-1848, 1870 (2 bundles)

Annual accounts, 1832, 1834

General payments, 1839 (1 bundle)

Accounts of receipts and expenditure, 1842–1848 (1 bundle)

Papers, letters and contracts, 1846-1847 (1 bundle)

Accounts of expenditure, 1881-1913 (2 bundles)

Income and expenditure accounts, 1896-1906

Letters from Anthony Finn, headmaster, to the Governors on various matters re the school with a school prospectus, 1903

Report of Visiting committee re the practical means of extending the education to include Natural Sciences, N.D.

APPENDIX IV

MISCELLANEOUS PAPERS re removal of the School to Stapleton, 1807-1907

Agreement between S.M.V. and Robert Miles & Samuel Barnett re yard in Host Street with stables and cellars under Colston's Hospital together with well, 1807

Sale particulars of Colston's Free school, formerly the Great House in St. Augustine's with premises in Host Street

Plans by Thomas S. Hack for extensions to the school on St. Augustine's Back, 1854

Correspondence with Charity Commissioners for transferring the school to Stapleton, 1854–1865

Estimates for alteration of Colston's Hospital, 1855

Extracts from annual reports and papers re Stapleton estate, 1858

Copy memorial of descendants of founder against removal of school, N.D.

Memorial from beneficed clergy against removal of school, 1858

Report of Thomas Donaldson, architect, on plans drawn up by Foster & Wood and Pope & Bindon, 1859

Abstract of title of the Great House, St. Augustine's Back and the Masons' Arms, 1860

Draft conveyance of estate settled on Colston's Hospital and appointment of new feoffees, 1877

Papers and correspondence re alterations and additions to the school at Stapleton, including correspondence with the architects, Foster & Wood, 1877–1878

Particulars of sale of house and grounds at Stapleton, 1886

Specification for steam boiler and engine at Stapleton, Thomas Bradford & Co., 1891

Plan of coal mining at Stapleton, 1907

Plan of Bristol, 1904 showing the Stapleton estate, endorsed 'Bedminster Coal Company', 1907

Contract for drainage and sanitary works at Colston's school and correspondence with John Perkins, 1907

APPENDIX V

MISCELLANEOUS PAPERS, 1880-1912

Letter re the filling of the vacancy in the school Report on examination of school by T. J. Haworth

Letter re the Peloquin scholarship

Reports on examinations

Letters from Inland Revenue re exemption of the school from inhabited house duty

Headmaster's reports

Resignation of French master

Letter from S.M.V. to Colston Schools Trust

Report on the examination of school by William G. Grignon

Letter from Charity Commissioners amending section 75 of scheme of 1875

Newscuttings of Income and Expenditure from Bristol Times & Mirror Orders re appointment of Colonel Hale and the Duke of Beaufort as governors

Letter re expenses for examining

Report of examinations for free scholars

Letter from S.M.V. re farms in hand

Reports of examinations by Oxford & Cambridge Local Examinations Syndicate

Copy case for opinion re rights of way at Stapleton

Report on examination of school by C. A. Buckmaster

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ESTATES MANAGEMENT

During its long history the Society has acquired land and property. Much of this was held in trust for various charities, but the Society held properties in the city of Bristol in its own right. However, in the late 17th century it acquired the two manors of Clifton. Later the Society managed estates outside Bristol which it owned in its own right or which it administered as a trustee for the Colston charities and St. Monica Home of Rest. This being so, the estate records cover all land and properties, often in one series.

Financial statements, 1818, 1857–1870 Ledger of rents due, 1819-1837 Ledgers, 1819-1837, 1851-1859 Waste book: rent renewals, 1843-1865 1 vol Lease minute book, 1853-1872 Rentals, 1852-1919 Agreements with tenants, 1853–1883 1 vol Rents, rough cash book, 1859-1868 Provisional Orders for street improvements, 1858, 1884 Surveyor's reports, 1876-1961 3 vols Maps of estates in Somerset, 1816–1904 Sale of properties in the City, Clifton, Hotwells and Redland, 1905-1975 118 folders Registers of assignments, 1920-1945 5 vols War damage claims, 1941-1957 Survey and plan of Baptist Mill Brassworks, being part of estate belonging

MANOR OF CLIFTON

to the society, by De Wilstar, 1750

Survey and plans of properties in Bristol, 19th century

Fine book renewals, 1747-1799 1 vol

Accounts, general, 1793-1795, 1846-1875 2 vols

In 1661, the Society proposed to negotiate for the purchase of the Hotwell and the adjacent waste ground but nothing came of this. In 1676 a committee was set up to buy the manor of Clifton and any other lands in fee for a sum not exceeding £2,000. A three-quarter share was acquired. Another small manor of Clifton was acquired in 1686 and further property was purchased in 1699.

Abstract of leases, 1716, 1752–1783 2 vols Registers of leases, 1665–1850, 1716–1852 10 vols [vols 2–3 missing] Valuation of Clifton, 1826 1 vol Particulars of properties in Bristol & Clifton, 1839 1 vol
Lease minute book, 1853–1872 1 vol
Rentals, 1761–1834, 1843–1846 38 vols
Rent Terriers, 1851–1964 12 vols
(by 1900, these include all properties adminstered by S.M.V.)
Rental of Bristol, Clifton & Monkton Stogursey, 1766 1 vol
Rent Ledgers, 1836–1841, 1851–1854, 1860–1861, 1871–1875 5 vols
Rent book, 1840–1841 1 vol
Weekly rents, 1839–1851 4 vols
Chief rents, 1839–1851 4 vols
Agreements with tenants, 1853–1883 1 vol
Rent renewals, 1843–1865 1 vol
Survey of lands held on lives, 1822 1 vol
Surveyors' reports, 1876–1944, 1930–1961 2 vols, 1 file

Survey of lands held on lives, 1822 1 vol Surveyors' reports, 1876–1944, 1930–1961 2 vols, 1 file Repairs, 1902–1913 1 vol Deed of feoffment of manor of Clifton, 1914

Survey and plan of Clifton, by De Wilstar, 1746 Maps and plans of the manor, roads, 18th and 19th centuries Deeds, 1596–1960

(for detailed information see separate catalogue at Merchants' Hall)
Leases of land and properties see separate catalogue at Merchants' Hall
Miscellaneous papers, 1761–1792 see Appendix I
Miscellaneous papers, 1810–1926 see Appendix II
Bill in Chancery to discover rights and title to land in Clifton
S.M.V. v. Lambe, Deane and others, 1682–1684
Depositions and answers
Legal papers 5 bundles

Bill in Chancery re land at Rownham Meads, 1765–1794 S.M.V. v. Adams family, papers re Legal Proceedings, S.M.V. v. Mathias, 1852–1857

Obstruction of way between Rodney Place and Victoria Square Papers, plans and correspondence 4 bundles

CLIFTON AND DURDHAM DOWNS

Enclosure of land called Shortgrove by Sam Worrall, 1788–1785 Encroachments of Durdham Down, papers, 1854–1860 Windmill on Durdham Down, 1789 Papers re Bill in Parliament, 1860–1861 Copy of Clifton and Durdham Downs Act, 1861 Report of Law Officers, 1859 Bye-Laws, 1861, 1891, 1935 Grazing Rights, 1917 Water supply to Observatory, contracts, 1905 War memorial proposals, 1920
Proposed new road, N.D.
Deed as to management of Nightingale Valley, 1909
Clifton Observatory, 1961–1978 1 vol

HOTWELLS

Miscellaneous correspondence and papers, 1694–1820 Deeds, 1652–1925

(for detailed information, *see* separate index at Merchants' Hall) Quarterly accounts and vouchers, inventory of the Hotwell House, 1785–1791, 1799–1820 2 bundles Hotwells account book, by Sam Powell, 1795–1821

JACOB WELLS

Tenders from builders for the erection of two blocks of buildings for the industrial classes designed by J.A. Clarke, 1872
(This scheme was to erect two blocks of buildings to accommodate 36 families to be carried out by the S.M.V. The scheme was abandoned and Miss Winkworth formed a company and built two blocks)

MANOR OF MONKTON STOGURSEY, SOMERSET

The manor of Monkton House together with other lands formerly belonging to the Priory of Stogursey was granted by the Crown to Eton College. The Society leased the manor from Eton College until it was sold c. 1923.

Rentals of properties settled on Colston Hospital, 1712–1835 54 vols Rentals of properties settled on Colston Almshouse, 1766–1801, 1883, 1906–1921 37 vols

Chief rents and land tax, 1807–1876 1 vol Survey and valuation of Stogursey parish, 1819 1 vol Receipts and expenditure, 1825–1875 1 vol Tithe apportionment of Stogursey, 1841 1 vol Tithe rent charge, 1851–1886 Survey, 1860

Survey and plan of manor of Monckton and Priory of Stogursey, by De Wilstar, 1744.

Maps of Stogursey, 1841, 1904 Papers re sale of estate, 1921 (Leases deposited in the Somerset Record Office)

MANOR OF BEERE IN CANNINGTON, SOMERSET

The manor belonged to the Bowyer family 1559-1707 when it was sold to

Edward Colston for endowment of Colston's Hospital, which is administered by the Society.

Survey and plan of Beere, by De Wilstar, 1744

MANOR OF LOCKING, SOMERSET

The manor belonged to the Plomley family, conveyed to Edward Colston for the endowment of Colston's Hospital. Sold 1919–1920

Rent books of Locking, Beere and Stogursey, 1852–1854, 1870–1919 5 vols

Maps of Locking, 1816, 1883, 1905

Maps of fields bordering the manor of Locking, 1904

Miscellaneous papers re estates of Monkton, Stogursey and Locking, 1774 – 1794 2 bundles

Sales particulars, 1919-1920

Survey and plan of the manor of Locking, by De Wilstar, 1745 (Deeds and leases deposited in Somerset Record Office)

CATHANGER AND COULTINGS, NEAR BRIDGWATER, SOMERSET

Farm lands purchased by the Society between Beere and Monkton, 1861, Cathangar, 1862, Coultings, 1865, Fiddington, 1870. All sold 1919–1920

Sale catalogues, 1919-1920

ST. MONICA HOME OF REST, WESTBURY-ON-TRYM, BRISTOL

By a Deed Poll of 1922 and another dated 1928 a charity was formed to build and maintain a Home to be called the St. Monica Home of Rest with money given by Henry Herbert Wills. The Society is responsible for the management of the endowments and hands over the income to the Council, half of which is appointed by the Society. Built according to plans by Sir George Oatley 1920–25.

Deed Polls, 1919–1926 3 vols
Finance Committee minutes, 1925–1931 1 vol
Cash books, 1918–1962 7 vols
Ledgers, 1918–1964 8 vols
Annual Accounts, 1922–1928 1 bundle
Stock account, 1925 1 vol
Legacy Fund, 1971–1973 1 vol
Payments to pensioners, 1924–1936 6 vols
Names and addresses of pensioners, N.D. 2 vols
Estate cash books, 1944–1968 5 vols
Estate ledgers, 1944–1962 6 vols

Rent terrier, 1949–1959 4 vols
Journal, 1960 1 vol
Real Estate, 1950 1 vol
Real Estate index, N.D. 1 vol
Estates visits, 1961– 1 box
Correspondence, 1921–1960 2 boxes
Properties purchased, 1944–1948 1 vol
Properties sold, 1951–1973 1 vol
Deeds of Cote House Estate

William Elmes v. Richard Holt – An exemplification of a Bill of Interrogation in the Court of Chancery, 1690

Answers and depositions concerning the will of Thomas Elmes of Lilford, Northamptonshire (seal missing) 1 roll

Plan of parish of Titchmarsh, Northamptonshire, belonging to William Walcot

Appointment of trustees to carry out provisions of an Act of Parliament for making the River Nene navigable between Northampton and Peterborough, 1794

APPENDIX I

MISCELLANEOUS PAPERS, 1761-92

Letter from Shute Adams re surveying of his land, 1761

Limekiln lane, estimate of damage done there, 1769

Plan of estate at Hotwells belonging to E. Daniel, surveyed by William White, 1773

Letter from H. Hobhouse re development of land called Ferny Close held by Beames adjoining the Hobhouse property, 1784

Letter from Mr. Ferris, of Brass Wire Co., willing to lease gorse and fern, 1784

Letter from Osborne and Seager re proposal to run a road through Rownham Wood held by Mr. Beames.

Letter from S.M.V. granting the Company the right to lease gorse and fern

Letter from Thos. Ferris, of the Brass Wire Co., re cutting of thorn and gorse on the Manor of Clifton, 1785

Letter from Philip Miles asking for piece of land outside his house, 1786

Letter from John Manley re settlement of Inquisition held in 1776 re land at Rownham Meads, 1786

Letter from Samuel Worrall to the Master of S.M.V. about the Society's right to wastes of Clifton Manor, 1786

Letter from John Manley re settlement of case re Rownham Meads, 1787

Memorial to Sam Worrall and Thomas Sims stating intention to enclose 12 acres of Rocky ground called "Short Grove" lying open to the common of Durdham Down, 1787

Memorial of Samuel Thomas re property in a lane between Limekilns and Jacobs Wells, 1787

Petition of Mary Rogers re lease of Limekiln on Durdham Down, 1787 Note re stones from Honeypen Quarry to mend the Turnpike road, 1787

Papers re settlement of land, Worrall and Sims, 1787-1789

Note to take rubbish from quarry on Honeypen Hill, 1789

Letter from Haven Master, danger of quarrying stone, 1790

Application to put rubble in Honeypen Quarry by Tucker and Hartland, builders, 1791

Letter from Thomas Morgan asking for waste and Rocky ground opposite which he intends to make into a garden, 1791

Letter from James Cross re land at Honeypen Hill, 1791

Petition of Edward Daniel with complaints re land at Rownham Meads, 1791

Notice to quit lands at Rownham Mead served on S.M.V. by John Manley and others, 1792

Surrender of lease and grant of new one to Hugh Stratton, 1792

Nursery in Queens Road re building of high wall, 1785

Love Street, papers and plan, 1790

APPENDIX II

MISCELLANEOUS PAPERS, 1810-1926

Boyce's Buildings: sale to S.M.V. copies of title deeds, etc., 1810-1873

Princes Buildings: new fines, 1822

Valuation of properties in Vincent's Parade and Princes Buildings, 1836

Valuation of S.M.V. properties in Clifton, 1839

Valuation of S.M.V. properties, 1839-1848

Particulars of premises held by lease, 1841

Valuation of properties in Clifton, 1847

Case in Chancery: S.M.V. v. Hemming re drainage in Victoria Square, 1849

Bridge Valley Road: agreement re house and garden, 1851

Park Place: papers, 1852-1855

Clifton Turnpike: title to roadways with plan, 1853

Pembroke Road road widening, 1855-1860

Regent Street: contract for sale of brewery by J.W. & R.C. Lowe, 1858

Victoria Square: land for a church, 1859

Royal Artillery ground: lease to Bristol & Glos. Volunteer Artillery Corps, 1860–1868

Princes Buildings: papers re building of Pump Room and lift, 1869-1893

Honeypen Hill estate: particulars of leases, 1866

Proposals for new roads in Clifton, 1867

Various properties in Clifton, papers re, 1871-1872

Sundon House: railways encroachment, 1888

Nursery Ground, Queens Road: conveyance to Bristol Corporation of part of Parker's nursery, 1912–1926

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TRADE

BOOK OF TRADE, 1598-1693 1 vol

(It is primarily a letter book and a memorandum book, containing copies of letters, agreements, bonds, patents, proclamations, certificates, Society's accounts, a few entries concerning the Levant Company 1665–66, wharfage rates 1620, and money raised for expenditure against Turkish pirates 1619–20. Not used as a Book of Record after 1666. For further details see McGrath, Merchant Venturers, Bristol Record Society, vol. XVII, pp. xlviii-xlix.)

WHARFAGE BOOKS, 1654–1694, 1711–1712, 1727–1750, 1753–1769, 1772–1782, 1784–1813, 1827–1860.

(Contain receipts from wharfage duties which the Society were empowered to collect, and give details of goods imported into Bristol, names of ships and names of merchants.)
Wharfage Receipts, 1847–1852 1 vol
Wharfage Payments, 1841–1847

WHARFAGE AND CRANAGE RATES

Cranes, papers re, 1751-1792, 2 bundles

Accounts of Francis Ball, collector of Cranage rates, 1827–1833 2 bundles Report of committee to revise rates, 1835 1 vol

Wharfage, Anchorage and Moorage Rates, Defalcations by Charles Anderson 1834–1835, 1 bundle

SHIPPING DUES

Report on Public Enquiry before H.M. Commissioners, 1853.

AFRICAN TRADE

The establishment of the Royal Africa Company of England with accounts of trade and charges for maintenance, 1730.

An estimate of the charges of the Royal Africa Company for the maintenance of the British Forts on the African coast, 1730.

Depositions about H.M. ship "Sloop", buying of negroes and correspondence, 1738.

Accounts received and expended by Company of Merchants trading to Africa for the support and improvement of the Forts on the Cape Coast on the river Gambia, 1751-1797. (from 1778 are included Orders and Regulations)

Correspondence, 1772–1782

Copy of address to Governor and Council of Cape Coast Castle from the African Office in London, 1779.

TRADE WITH AMERICA

Miscellaneous papers, 1757–1790

TRADE WITH IRELAND

Miscellaneous papers, 1768–1789 Miscellaneous papers dealing with trade, 1742–1845

PORT IMPROVEMENT

In 1765 William Champion built a floating dock on the Avon near Rownham. In 1770 some members of the Society bought it and sold it to the Society and it became known as the Merchants' Dock.

CHAMPION'S DOCK

Cost of dock, 1770–1778 1 vol Accounts, 1771–1780 1 vol Receipt book, 1771–1781 1 vol Sale of wharfage land, 1866

QUAYS

Accounts, contracts, petitions re the building of new Quay wall at the Grove, 1767–1769 1 bundle

FLOATING HARBOUR

Scheme for the enlargement of the Floating Dock and erection of storehouses, papers, 1764–1781

Plans by James Paty in 1776

Letters re improvement of harbour, J. Smeaton, Joshua Nickalls, William Jessop, 1788–1790

Floating Dock, papers, 1764–1781

Reports of Standing Committee, 1770-1775 1 vol

Ships' registers, 1775-1776, 1820-1835 2 vols

Day book of Master (includes lists of cargoes discharged), 1795-1799 1 vol

Ledger, 1796–1799 1 vol

Journal, 1799–1807 1 vol

Account of cargo deposited, 1818–1844 1 vol

Ledger of Floating Dock and Bonding Yard, 1824–1846 2 vols

Papers re Bonding Yard, Hotwells, 1857–1874 1 bundle

Cash book of Floating Dock and Bonding Yard, 1842–1845 1 vol

Stothert's Dock, papers re, 1868–1918 1 bundle

Rents accounts of, 1825–1845 2 vols

Bristol Dock Campany, accounts and papers, 1848 1 bundle

Report of the Port Charges Committee, 1847

BRIDGE AT MORGAN'S, PILL
Report and correspondence, 1785–1791 1 bundle

LIGHTHOUSE ON THE SMALL, ST. GEORGE'S CHANNEL
Petitions and papers, 1774–1778

POWDER MAGAZINE, RIVER AVON

Brief on part of the S.M.V. to oppose application of Henry Gill at Gloucestershire Quarter Sessions, 1823 1 bundle

LOG BOOK of the ship Lucy, 1820.

Accounts of expenses of one voyage from London to St. Andrews for a cargo of wools for Bristol.

S.S. Demerara, enquiry into the stranding of, 1851

PILOTAGE

Pilots' Bonds, 1684–1783
Petitions and papers, 1772–1792
Masters' and Mates' Pilotage, 1855–1873 1 vol
Case against a Cardiff pilot, papers, 1858 1 bundle

SEAMEN'S HOSPITAL FUND

As early as 1747, a proposal was made to establish a hospital for the relief of merchant seamen and their families. The Corporation of Bristol granted a site on Brandon Hill. The scheme however was abandoned but the Fund was established and administered by the Society.

By an Act of Geo. II c. 38 provision was made for all seamen employed in the Merchant Service to pay 6d a month out of their pay for the relief of such seamen rendered incapable of service, by wounds, accidents, misfortunes or become decrepit and worn out by age, and for the relief of widows and children of such seamen as may be slain, killed or drowned in the Merchant Service. By Section 28 of the Act, the Society of Merchant Venturers was appointed Trustees for receiving and applying monies paid in the port of Bristol. In 1853 the fund and its management was handed over to the Board of Trade.

Deeds of the site on Brandon Hill for proposed hospital, 1723–1792 Seamen's Hospital Orders, 1747–1769 1 vol

Treasurer's accounts, 1748-1835 2 vols

Accounts of money for the relief of seamen and those disabled in the Merchant Service, 1747–1787 1 vol

Journals, 1796–1853 3 vols

Ledger, 1835–1853 1 vol

Accounts, annual, 1766–1808 3 bundles

Vouchers, 1806-1808 3 bundles

Certificates for financial aid, 1751–1806 8 bundles

Petitions, 1765–1773 2 bundles (for detailed information see separate catalogue at Merchants' Hall)

Trustees' meetings minutes, 1767–1779 1 bundle

Miscellaneous papers, 1770-1797 1 bundle

Muster Rolls, 1754–1794 11 vols⁶

ACTS OF PARLIAMENT

Importation of Bar Iron from America
Papers, 1757–1760

Bill to open the Ports of Ireland

Papers, 1768–1779

Bill for the more effectually preventing smuggling in this Kingdom, 1779 Papers, 1779–1790

Kennet and Avon Canal

Papers, 1788-1789 1 bundle

Bill for making a navigable canal between Birmingham and Severn at Diglis, near Worcester, 1791

Petitions, 1791

Berkeley and Gloucester Canal, 33 Geo. III Papers, 1793 1 bundle

Bristol Dock Acts, 1776, 1842, 1848, 1863

⁶ Jonathan Press, *The Merchant Seamen of Bristol, 1747–1789*, Bristol, 1976. Bristol Branch of the Historical Association pamphlet.

LEGAL MATTERS

SOCIETY OF MERCHANT VENTURERS OF BRISTOL v. JOHN TYNDALE

Proceedings of a law suit first before the Lords of the Treasury and afterwards in the Court of the Exchequer.

In 1623 there were differences between the merchants of Bristol and officers of the Customs in many ports of England about fees; complaints were made to Parliament whereby letters were written from the Treasury to the merchants and officers of customs to settle their fees. The merchants of Bristol settled all fees and signed an agreement, a copy of which is entered in their records.

In 1662, the table of fees signed by the Speaker of the House of Commons was hung up in the Customs House in Bristol and the merchants adhered to these fees.

When Sackville Graves became searcher at Bristol, (an office granted by Letters Patent), the Letters Patent granted by Charles II to him had attached to it a schedule of fees "as those for London" and he demanding such fees, the merchants refused and differences arose.

In 1670 Sir John Knight on behalf of the merchants of Bristol agreed with Sackville Graves on what fees should be paid in Bristol. The merchants paid fees according to the Table which was not half so much as the searcher of London received. Sackville Graves stifled this Table and often received fees as in London. He also hung up in his office the Table of Fees as London.

In 1666, Charles II granted the reversion of the office of searcher to John Tyndale. Seven years later Graves died and John Tyndale took the office and received fees as London. The merchants refused to pay and brought an action against 4 or 5 particular merchants. The cause was heard in 1693 when he was granted the liberty to amend his Bill of Complaint and make the Society of Merchants his defendants. The Merchants exhibited a Bill of Complaint against John Tyndale to get the matter settled and to continue to pay fees as agreed in 1662. John Tyndale lost his case in 1695.

18 MAY 27 ELIZ.I

Grant made under a licence from the Queen dated 7 September 26 Eliz. I, that Peter Newell enjoyed authority to transport from the ports of Chester, Bristol, Bridgwater and Barnstaple 2,000 dickers of leather of calve skins (10 dozen calve skins to a dicker) during a term of 12 years.

- 1. Peter Newell of Chester, merchant
- Thomas Rowland, Thomas Pollington, Thomas James, John Barker, Bristol merchants.

5 AUGUST 28 ELIZ. I

Grant of Letters Patent, 4 March 28 Eliz. I, by Peter Newell, of Chester, merchant to Thomas James, John Barker, Thomas White, merchants of Bristol, concerning the transporting overseas of calve skins.

18 JUNE 12 CHAS.I

Copy of Letters Patent granting to Hugh Lewis and Edward Dendy the office of searchers in port of Bristol.

Bill of Complaint in Court of Exchequer by Hugh Lewis and Edward Dendy, searchers in port of Bristol, 1635

Interrogations on behalf of Hugh Lewis and Edward Dendy v. John Barker, John Taylor, John Gunning and Richard Vickris, 1635

Answers of John Barker, John Taylor, John Gunning and Richard Vickris to Bill of Complaint, 1635

SOCIETY OF MERCHANT VENTURERS OF BRISTOL v. TYNDALE COURT OF EXCHEQUER

Rates of Fees belonging to pilots with an additional note dated 19 May 1619 signed by Israel Gleson, registrar of the Admiralty Court, Bristol, 1605

Copy of a petition delivered to the Lord Treasurer 23 February 1617, with answer of Lord Treasurer, saying that the searcher at Bristol shall receive the same fees as that of London.

Copy of petition of John Whitson and John Barker on behalf of the Company of Merchants to the Lord Treasurer of England complaining against William Lewis, searcher of the post for exacting new and unaccustomed fees from those trading in the port, tending against the decay of trade.

Copy of letter from John Langton, Andrew Charlton, John Barker, John Gonning, Humphry Browne, Richard Long, William Jones to John Whitson and John Guy in London concerning the fees, 1621

Letter form John Guy to Robert Aldworth and S.M.V. concerning a petition relating to the new composition, 1622

Copy of appointment by S.M.V. of Alderman John Tomlinson and Richard Holworthy, merchants, as their true and lawful deputies and solicitors to speak for them concerning the fees charged by the searcher of Bristol, 1633

Rates of searchers fees in London, N.D. List of papers sent to London, 1634

List of the following sent to London, N.D.:

Charters of Edward VI and Elizabeth I,

Patent for landing goods, contract for fees, Lords' certificate about the Patent for fees

Lord Portland's letter ordering the searcher to take his ancient fee Copy of the cases for the S.M.V. in Court of Exchequer, N.D.

List of persons to be a committee to deal with the business of fees and imposition of 10/- per ton. (Alderman Hooke, Alderman Gonning, Mr. Holworthy, Mr. Longe, Mr. Jones, Captain Taylor), N.D.

TYNDALE v. SOCIETY OF MERCHANT VENTURERS OF BRISTOL

Copy of letters Patent from Charles II dated 9 April 13 Chas. II to John Tyndale as searcher.

Bill of Complaint in the Court of Exchequer Trinity Term 4 James II by John Tyndale of Bathford, gent. searcher of the port of Bristol, office granted to him by Chas. II under letters Patent 20 March 28 Chas. II, against the S.M.V. concerning fees payable on commodities entering the port of Bristol.

(schedule of fees on a large variety of commodities listed therein)

Briefs, Tyndale v. Hart

Briefs, Tyndale v. John Cary

Briefs, Tyndale v. Seward

Briefs, Merchants v. Tyndale before the Lords of the Treasury

Briefs, writs and note submitted by S.M.V. in 1635

Copy memorandum concerning fees for the searcher in port of London, 1603 with list of fees attached.

Case and opinion and other legal papers, 1691–94

Evidence of witnesses taken at the Guilders Inn in High Street, Bristol, 1691

Depositions taken at the Guilders Inn in High Street, Bristol, 1691

Depositions taken at the Bell, Bristol, by virtue of a Commission out of the Court of Exchequer, 13 June 12 Chas. I

Power of attorney – S.M.V. to Thomas Edwards, gent. of Bristol, to cause an appearance to be made at the Court of Exchequer in the case of John Tyndale, 1693

CORRESPONDENCE, 1692–1695

Copy letter to R. Hutchinson from Thos. Edwards suggesting manner in which the case concerning fees be put, 13 Jan. 1692

Letter from R. Hutchinson to Thos. Edwards, Attorney in Bristol and solicitor of S.M.V., 19 Jan. 1692

Copy of letter from Thomas Edwards to R. Hutchinson, 21 Jan. 1692 Copy of letter to Mr. Yate about the business between Tyndale and Cary and whether the case should be heard at the Bar or in Gloucestershire, 11 Feb. 1692

Note asking for copies of Bill and Answer in case of Lewis and Dendy v.

John Barker to be furnished for the Court, 13 Feb. 1692

Complaint of John Tyndale, the patent searcher in port of Bristol to the Commissioners of Customs about manner in which Thos. Edwards is conducting the S.M.V. case, 15 Feb. 1692

Copy of letter to R. Hutchinson about his action when Tyndale brought a suit against John Cary for fees due to him, 18 Feb. 1692

Draft letter to R. Hutchinson on the same business, 18 March 1692

Letter from R. Hutchinson, 21 March 1692

Letter from R. Hutchinson urging a settlement of the issue, 24 December 1692

Letter from R. Hutchinson as above, 27 April 1693

Draft letter to R. Hutchinson about Tyndale's behaviour in not attempting to settle the issue with Cary or fixing time for trial, 29 April 1693

Statement that S.M.V. shall continue to pay fees as settled by Sackville Graves, 24 May 1693

Draft letter to R. Hutchinson on the table of fees submitted, 8 May 1693

Draft letter to R. Hutchinson, 29 May 1693

Report to Lords of the Treasury from the Commissioners of Customs re the giving of financial assistance to John Tyndale in his action against the S.M.V., 27 June 1693 (2 copies)

Letter from Henry Guy, Treasury chamberlain, to Thos. Edwards fixing a date for the hearing of the case between Tyndale and S.M.V., 17 July 1693

Letter from Henry Guy summoning Thos. Edwards to attend in London, 19 July 1693

Letter from Henry Guy, postponing the date, 23 July 1693

Letter from Henry Guy to the Commissioners of the Customs revoking their order to assist Tyndale with the King's purse, 1 August 1693

Letter from R. Longford to Thos. Edwards explaining his visit to the Customs House where they were of the opinion that the S.M.V. were trifling in the matter, 15 August 1693

Copy of letter sent to John Tyndale from Thos. Edwards informing him that the S.M.V. are not trifling in the matter and want dispute settled, 23 August 1693

Draft of above, 21 August 1693

Release of any claims against the S.M.V. in the matter of fees by John Tyndale, gent., late searcher of H.M. customs in the port of Bristol, 2 November 1695

Note on the method of passing and paying debentures according to law and practice in the port of London and how that method is prevented in the port of Bristol, N.D.

Petition of John Tyndale to the Lords of the Treasury about the paying of customs and fees by the S.M.V., N.D.

MISCELLANEOUS

STEADFAST SOCIETY

Tory Political Club which met at the White Lion, Broad Street. Book of rules and orders and proceedings, 1737–1802 1 vol President's accounts, 1737–1756 1 vol White Lion committee book, 1805–1821 1 vol White Lion letter book, 1805–1823 1 vol Proceedings of General Election, 1818, 1818–1819 1 vol Proceedings of General Election, 1826 Proceedings of General Election, 1832 Proceedings of General Election, 1835, 1835–1837 1 vol Newscuttings and broadsheets re General Elections, 1834–1859 1 vol Register of names, N.D. 1 vol

WEST INDIA ASSOCIATION

In 1777 merchants formed their own local West India Club, but it was short lived. In 1782 the West India Society was formed, which later became known as the West India Association. The papers that have survived are with the S.M.V. not because the Association was part of the S.M.V. but because William Claxton, Treasurer of the S.M.V., 1841–1873, was also Treasurer of the West India Association.

Proceedings, 1782-1857 4 vols

Vouchers, 1846-1853

Treasurer's accounts, 1816-1855 1 vol

Account book, 1843-1847

Letters, 1830-1857 9 bundles

(for details see Appendix I)

Miscellaneous papers, 1813-1851 9 bundles

(for details see Appendix II)

(These bundles of letters and miscellaneous papers have been kept in their original bundles thus precluding a strict chronological sequence)

APPENDIX I

LETTERS, 1830 1 bundle

Richard Hart Davis re petition to Duke of Wellington about duties on sugar and rum

J. Smith Clarke re meeting of Committee of Association re duties on sugar

George Jones re West India affairs (sugar and rum duties)

R. Hart Davis re petition to Duke of Wellington

J. Smith Clarke re West India affairs (sugar and rum duties)

J. Smith Clarke re solutions of Standing Committee

E. Dawson of Treasury Chambers re duties on colonial products

R. Hart Davis re duties on sugar and rum

R. Hart Davis re presentation of petition (rum and sugar)

Henry Bright re presentation of petition (rum and sugar)

R. Hart Davis re presentation of petition (rum and sugar)

J. S. Clarke re proceedings of Standing Committee

J. S. Clarke re resolutions on compulsory manumission

J. S. Clarke re notice of meeting of West India Committee

George Saintsbury re equalization of duty on rum and British spirits

J. S. Clarke re reports of Committee

J. S. Clarke re resolutions on state of West Indian colonies

R. Hart Davies re resolutions on state of West Indian colonies

J. S. Clarke re resolutions on state of West Indian colonies Henry Bright re resolutions on state of West Indian colonies Duties on sugar

W. Hamilton of Glasgow re bounty on refined sugar

J. S. Clarke resolutions against admission of slave evidence

J. H. Markland re meeting of Standing Committee in London Charles Payne re state of colonies

LETTERS, 1831 1 bundle

James McQueen of Glasgow re copies of Blackwoods Magazine

J. S. Clarke re West India distress

J. S. Markland re meeting with Chancellor of Exchequer

George Saintsbury re West India affairs

J. E. Baillie re West India affairs

J. Holford subscriptions to Society for promotion of religious instruction to negroes with list of Bristol people

George Hibbert re West India affairs

George Saintsbury re West India resolutions

R. H. Davis re West India affairs

Philip Protheroe re West India affairs

Duties on sugar

A. Macgregor of Glasgow with resolutions

Charles Shand of Liverpool re memorial for admission of sugar into distilleries

R. Hart Davis re memorial for admission of sugar into distilleries

Philip Protheroe re duties on sugar in distilleries

Geo. Saintsbury re use of sugar in breweries

Henry Bright re emancipation of slaves

J. H. Markland re meeting of Standing Committee

William Blackwood re money owing to him

J. H. Markland re West India affairs

A. McDonnell with resolutions re tax on sugar

George Gibbs re subscription to Marquis of Chandos' election

J. H. Markland testimonial to Marquis of Chandos

George Saintsbury re subscription towards a piece of plate for George Hibbert

George Saintsbury with resolutions re West India affairs

Charles Shand re refining of foreign sugars and use of molasses in breweries

George Gibbs re affairs of West India Association

William Burge re clearance of vessels at Jamaica

A. V. Colville re distress of West India trade

Philip Protheroe re resignation of himself and John Vaughan as members of the West India Club

George Saintsbury re Liverpool petition against renewal of Act for refining foreign sugars for exportation

Edward Protheroe promising support of petition against foreign refinery Bill

George Saintsbury re export of sugar from Liverpool

George Saintsbury re sugar refining

Henry Bright re brewing from molasses J. E. Baillie re West India Committee

George Saintsbury re brewing of cheap beer

George Saintsbury re refining of sugar

J. E. Baillie re West India affairs

LETTERS, 1832 1 bundle

A. Ryan of Barbados re state of affairs in West Indies

George Gibbs re sugar beet

I. Eccles re West India affairs

John G. Reed re West India affairs

George Saintsbury re West India affairs

George Saintsbury re experiments by Government in refining sugar

Henry Bright re West India affairs

E. McGeachy re West India affairs

John Eccles of Glasgow re protest against Order in Council

Wm. Burge re Government loan to planters in Jamaica

Lord Althorpe's letter to W. Burge re Government loan to Jamaican planters

J. Colquhoun re West India affairs

Geo. Saintsbury re copies of the "Metropolitan"

Gibbs & Co. re West India affairs

A. McDonnell re West India affairs

E. Irving re West India affairs

W. Burge re West India affairs

G. Russell re West India affairs

George Saintsbury re Mr. Borthwick's Lectures on anti-slavery George Saintsbury re map illustrating the rebellion in Jamaica

LETTERS, 1833 1 bundle

George Saintsbury re West India affairs

Charles Claxton re West India affairs

G. C. Rapier re memorial on West India affairs

R. Shaw editor of Merthyr Guardian

C. E. Bernard re emancipation

C. McGregor re West India affairs

J. E. Baillie re West India affairs

Copy of letter from T. Daniel to Sir R. R. Vyvyan re compensation

Philip Protheroe re West India affairs

Geo. Russell re Captain Claxton's letter

Peter Wright re deputation from Liverpool to London

C. Payne re Government's plan for abolition of slavery

J. E. Baillie re Government's plan for abolition of slavery

Sir R. R. Vyvyan re Bristol's petition

James Lewis re deputation from Bristol to London

Sir R. Vyvyan re debate in Parliament

James Lewis re deputation from Bristol

Geo. Saintsbury re West India affairs

Jas. E. Baillie acceptance of nomination as member of deputation

P. J. Miles declining acceptance of nomination as member of deputation

Geo. Gibbs re deputation

Christopher Claxton re petition

Christopher Claxton re debate in Parliament

Christopher Claxton member of deputation

Geo. Gibbs re debate on West India affairs

Christopher Claxton re debate on West India affairs

Christopher Claxton re West India affairs

J. E. Baillie re memorial to Commissioners of Customs re duty on rum Christopher Claxton sketch of export and slaves

Sir R. Vyvyan re rum trade

C. E. Bernard re West India affairs

C. E. Bernard and C. Claxton re appropriation of compensation

Peter Borthwick of Bath re West India affairs

C. E. Bernard when on deputation in London

Peter Wright, Liverpool, re settlement of West India question

Christopher Claxton with petition from the Barbados

James Lewis re refining of foreign sugar

Christopher Claxton re compensation

Geo. Saintsbury re proportionate expenses incurred by the Standing Committee

Sir R. Vyvyan re West India affairs

Sir R. Vyvyan re wastage on rum allowed

Geo. Saintsbury re Mr. Caldecott's expenses in support of West Indian interest

Geo. Saintsbury re remittance of £50 to Caldecott

Lloyd Caldecott letter of thanks

Geo. Saintsbury re Parliamentary debates on Slaving Bill

LETTERS, 1834 1 bundle

Geo. Saintsbury re West India affairs

J. Holford re subscriptions to Negro Slaves Society

G. Saintsbury re West India affairs

G. Saintsbury re negro emancipation

Lloyd Caldecott re equalization of duty on East India sugar

Gibbs, Son & Bright re commission on sugars sold at short price

Geo. Saintsbury re payment of printing orders

Geo. Saintsbury re necessity of establishment of effective Colonial Police

LETTERS, 1835 1 bundle

Geo. Saintsbury re subscriptions to religious instruction for negroes

Henry Hill re copies of rules of Compensation Committee

Peter Wright, Liverpool, re allowance of tares on sugar

Peter Wright, Liverpool, re subscription to religious instruction

Geo. Saintsbury re equalization of duties on East Indies and West Indies products

Geo. Saintsbury re equalization of duty on coffee

Philip Protheroe re distinctive duties Geo. Saintsbury re report of Slavery Committee Philip Protheroe re distinctive duties and compensation James McQueen re memorial to the Treasury on bonding system

LETTERS, 1845-1846 1 bundle

Sugar duties, printed memorandum

J. W. Wilson, emigration agent in Madras to A. MacGregor

A. MacGregor to Lord Stanley re emigration

A. MacGregor with enclosures as above

Schedule of ships conveying Indian emigrants to Demerara

A. MacGregor with a memorandum sent to Sir R. Peel

A. MacGregor with copy letter sent to W. E. Gladstone re loans for emigration

A. MacGregor with copy of letter to W. E. Gladstone on African emigration

A. MacGregor with list of ships chartered by the Colonial Land and Emigration Commissioners for conveying of Indian emigrants to West Indies

West India Committee with letter from Emigration Agent

West India Committee about reports of Acting Committee sent to Bristol

A. MacGregor with copy of letter sent to Chancellor of the Exchequer

A. MacGregor, addressed to Earl Grey re emigration from Africa

LETTERS, 1851-1853 1 bundle

G.S. Evans re remuneration for services rendered to West India Association

J. T. White to Governor of British Guiana

Contracts with Chinese emigrants

J. T. White to Governors of British Guiana re emigration of Chinese Colonial land and Emigration Office to A. MacGregor

Copy letter from Colonial land and Emigration Office with enclosures to A. MacGregor

Memorial from warehouse keepers to West India Association re sugar charges

Minutes of meeting of West India Association at Copper Warehouse in Small Street to consider petition of warehouse keepers re reductions in charges, together with letter from West India Association to warehouse keepers dated 16th July

Copy of memorial from Liverpool that letters should arrive at Plymouth The Treasury re petition that letters arriving by the West India Mail should be sorted at Southampton Treasury to Messrs. Daniel re charges on sugar

Memorandum from West India Association re state of trade

James T. White in Hong Kong re shipment of emigrant labourers from Canton to Demerara and Trinidad

J. T. White to Governor of British Guiana re Havana emigration

James T. White to A. MacGregor from Amoy, Hong Kong, with shipping news and Chinese emigrants

A. MacGregor with a copy of letter from James T. White with proposals that the West India Association in Bristol, Liverpool and Glasgow should unite with London

Private memorandum re transfer of negro labour from U.S.A. to British West India Colonies, probably written by A. MacGregor

Report of the state of Jamaica since abolition of slavery in 1838 sent to William Claxton (not signed but is written by James T. White)

LETTERS, 1850-1855 1 bundle

Brokers to William Claxton re reweighing of sugar

Scholfield Daening & Co. of Liverpool re reweighing of sugar

Walter Gray of Glasgow re reweighing of sugar

D. Hill re warehouse and brokerage charges

Minutes of meeting of West India Association re warehouse charges Letter re warehouse charges.

Letters from Jas. Martin dated July 1832 re raising money for cost of emigration to Sidney with letter from Thomas Daniel

Memo re a testimonial to Robert Bright

List of coolie emigration ships which sailed from Calcutta for West Indies Wm. Terrell re calamity which has occurred at Madeira

A. MacGregor re White's communications to Emigration Commissioners

A. MacGregor re donation to West India Association

T. D. Hill of Berkeley Square re Chinese emigration

A. MacGregor re draft of memorandum

A. MacGregor re Chinese emigration

T. D. Hill re Chinese emigration

Charles Claxton re memorial to Lord Palmerston

A. MacGregor of thanks for donation

Draft petition from West India Association to Parliament re war tax on sugar

Draft memorial to Lord Commissioners acting for Lord High Admiral re failure of the Royal East India Mail to fulfil their engagements

LETTERS, 1847-1857 2 bundles

Letters to William Claxton and Thomas Daniels Letters to William Claxton

APPENDIX II

MISCELLANEOUS PAPERS, 1813-1826 1 bundle

Memorial from mates of ships to the West India Society for increase of wages

Abstract of proceedings of West India Committee in London re the tares to be allowed on sugar

Letter from shipowners re average

Minutes of the Committee of the Society of West India Merchants re property tax on colonial produce

Memorial to the Treasury re seizures of property by customs officers Minutes of meetings of London Committee with letters re property tax Resolution of London Committee re outward freight

Resolutions of the Standing Committee re Wilberforce Bill concerning slaves

Resolution re taring of sugar

Report re change of hours of Customs Houses

Minutes of meeting of importers and exporters, re alteration of hours of Customs Houses

Proceedings of committee of importers and exporters re alteration of hours of Customs Houses

Proceedings of committee re alteration of freight rates

Accounts of the sugar trade of Great Britain 1808–1821 taken from House of Commons returns

Petition from West India planters interested in St. Vincent Island

Petition from West India planters re colonial distress

Petition from Liverpool merchants re colonial distress

Treasury Order for rescinding the new scale of taring for sugar

Rates of freight from Liverpool to Barbados

Minutes of committee re advance of wages by shipwrights

Petition from Glasgow West India Association re duties on East India sugar

Resolutions from wine and spirit trade re shrinkage of wine when out of bond

Resolutions of Standing Committee re emancipation of slaves Extract from minutes of sub-committee re emancipation of slaves

Report to Colonial Assemblies

Resolutions of Standing Committee re emancipation of slaves

Resolution with list of subscriptions for religious instruction of slaves in plantations

Petitions to House of Commons re emancipation of slaves Report on colonial distress

Bill for incorporation of West India Company

Petition of West India planters and merchants to the King re slaves

Memorial of the colonial agents to Earl Bathurst

Memorial from Liverpool merchants re wastage on rum

Resolution from buyers of raw sugar re hours of business

Memorial from Liverpool merchants re duty on coffee

Memorial from West India committee re duty on coffee

Proposals for alteration of brokerage from sugar brokers

Minutes of Standing Committee re sugar in distilleries

Re election of Standing Committee of West India planters and merchants

Resolution re drawback of exportation of refined sugar

Memorial of Liverpool merchants re exportation of refined sugar

Memorial of Glasgow merchants re equalization of duties on rum and British spirits

Petition of Glasgow and Bristol merchants re equalization of duties on rum and British spirits

Resolutions of Standing Committee of London West India Association

Resolution re abolition of slavery

Resolution re reduction of duty on sugar

Report on conference of Anti-Slavery Association

Bill for allowing duties granting drawbacks on sugars

Petition from London West India merchants re Bill for allowing duties granting drawbacks on sugars

Petition from Glasgow re slavery

Speech of T. P. van Berckel on compulsory manumission

Petition of West India merchants re bounty on fish

Copy correspondence between W. Huskisson and C. W. Palmer re sugar and distillers

Minutes of Standing Committee of West India Association re tax on sugar Minutes of Standing Committee re opposition to compulsory manumission

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Printed ordinances for religious instruction of slaves in Colony of Demerary and Essequebo

Observations on trade between British and North American provinces and fisheries and States of Europe

Resolutions of Standing Committee re rum duty

Proposed memorial on sugar duties

Heads of Bill for granting drawbacks on sugar

Minutes of Sub-Committee re slavery

Minutes of Standing Committee re reduction of duty on sugar

Regulations on foreign sugar

Report on conference on proposed new regulation on sugar duties

Resolutions on proposed plan for regulation of sugar duties

Minutes of the Demerara and Berbice Committee re application for expenses

Resolution re expenses incurred in case of opposition to compulsory manumission

Resolutions of committee re duty on sugar

Memorial for regulation of sugar duties

Report of committee on the slave trade

Resolution of committee on Slave Consolidate Act

Petition re sugar duties

Prospectus of a plan for investigating the natural productions of Jamaica East India Slavery by George Saintsbury (printed)

Resolution re sugar duties

Resolution re revision of powers of Standing Committee

Proceedings of general body of West India planters and merchants re election of members to Standing Committee

Resolution of West India Association re constitution of body

Report of Bristol and Clifton Anti-Slavery Society

Memorial from Glasgow West India merchants re duties

Broadside addressed to Marquis of Chandos by Edward Peart (printed)

Petition of inhabitants of Bristol in favour of slavery

Petition of Liverpool West India merchants on duties

Letter from Office of Committee for P.C. for Trade

Resolutions of Standing Committee re reductions of duties on sugar and rum

Resolutions of acting committee of West India Association in London re reductions of duties on sugar and rum

Resolutions re enquiry as to state of West India colonies

Resolutions before the Board of Trade

Heads of subjects for a conference with H.M. Ministers re West India colonies

Report of H.H.M. of West India planters and merchants

Petition of shipowners of Sutherland re duties on coal

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Signed statement against reduction of charges on West India produce

C. D. Donald of Glasgow re signed statement against reduction of charges on West India produce

Charges of landing, warehousing sugar, rum and coffee at Liverpool Housing rates of West India produce

Philip Massey re charges on landing, warehousing sugar, rum and coffee at Liverpool

Thomas Rankin re charges on landing, warehousing sugar, rum and coffee at Liverpool

Charges drawn up by West India Association for submission to coopers Robert Bush re charges proposed by coopers on West India produce Comparative charges on sugar and rum in London, Liverpool and Bristol C. D. Donald re tares on sugar at Glasgow

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Memorandum from Viscount Goderick re West India affairs

Report from Finance Committee of the acting committee of West India planters and merchants

Memorial of the Standing Committee of West India planters and merchants to Earl Grey

Preliminary to emancipation of the slaves: Rapier's paper to the West India Association

Memorial of bankers of Glasgow and of West of Scotland respecting slave emancipation

Petition to Parliament of planters, proprietors, merchants and others interested in the Bristol West India colonies

Circular of Anti-Slavery Society

Observations on the effect of admitting foreign sugar to be refined for exportation

Slavery Abolition Bill: clauses proposed to be added to Report

West India Compensation: notes on the general rules framed by Commissioners

Memorial of West India Proprietors in Scotland re state of West India colonies

Copy of resolutions passed at a meeting of the West India Association of Liverpool respecting the necessity of promoting the emigration of free labourers to the British West India colonies

Copy of regulations formed at a meeting of the West India Association at

Liverpool respecting importation of free labourers to the West India colonies

Resolutions of London Standing Committee of West India planters and merchants respecting the equalization of duty on East and West India rum

Petition of planters and merchants of London to House of Commons against the equalization of duty on East and West India rum Slavery Abolition Bill: clauses to be proposed by Mr. Fowell Buxton

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Speech of Bishop of Oxford in House of Lords against admission of slave labour, sugar on equal terms with free labour produce

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Letters, petitions re plight of colonists of Demerary and Essequebo West India compensation Printed pamphlets West India question Report of Commissioners on Guiana

Petition to Parliament from members of West India Association of Bristol re competition in sugar trade by slave traffic continuing in Cuba, the high duties on sugar and the impoverished state of West India Colonies, signed by a number of Members of Parliament

Ensembled Conference improvement of the Schmidter to the West Lights industries

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Bond – Abraham Gibbons and Charles Stubbs, and the Collector of Customs re duty paid on 13,000 lbs of English Plantation tobacco imported on the "Sarah", 1698

Merchants' accounts book, 1673-1677

(In the 18th century accounts of properties given by persons for the endowment of charities in Bristol have been entered in the book)

Mariner's book on navigation, c. 1740

(Endorsed on fly-leaf "Thomas Vellacott, inmate of Merchant Venturers' almshouse, 1900")

Collectania, c. 18th century

Collection of copies of miscellaneous documents bound together referring to lands in a number of counties and in particular to the manor of Whaddon, which estate forms part of the endowment of the St. Monica Charity.

Dolphin Society

Minutes, 1740–1904 7 vols List of members, 1749–1854 1 vol Accounts, 1884–1935 1 vol Yearly summary of accounts, 1897–1930 1 vol

Old Merchant Venturers' Technical College Club

(Club of old students who attended the Merchant Venturers' Technical College founded in 1902 and disbanded 1956)
Minutes, 1902–1978 6 vols (vol 4 missing)
Address Book, 1937 1 vol
Account Book, 1965–1976 1 vol
Miscellaneous papers, 1912–1962

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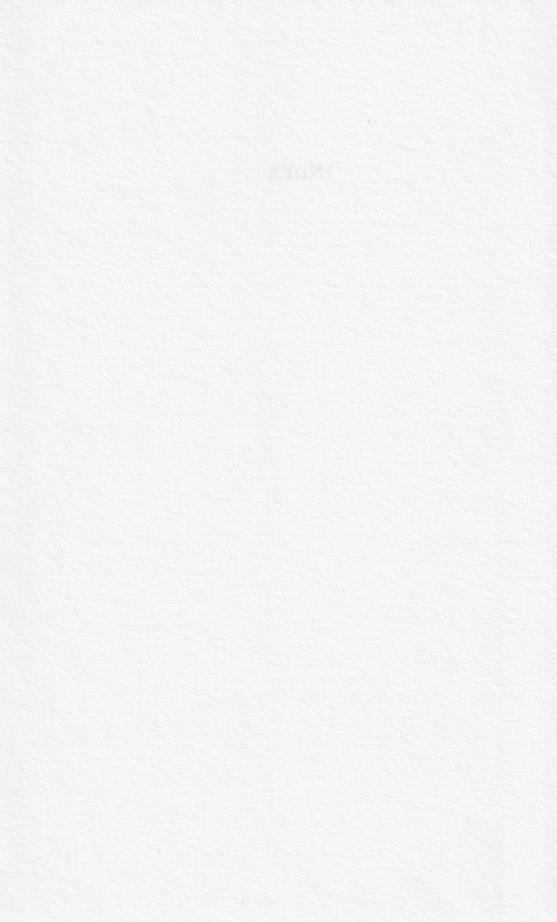
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